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**City of Hickory and Catawba County join together for program to help architects and developers
redevelop existing buildings**

HICKORY – City of Hickory and Catawba County staff are joining together to present an introduction to the North Carolina Rehab Code and City of Hickory Redevelopment Programs. The workshop will take place on Thursday, February 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Highland Recreation Center Community Room, at Stanford Park, 1451 8th Street Drive, NE, Hickory. Lunch will be provided.

City officials will present information about its *Operation No Vacancy* Initiative which aims to redevelop older commercial and industrial corridors. Attendees will be given an overview of the process for renovating and occupying an existing vacant building. Staff will also present information about grants and programs through the City of Hickory which target older commercial and industrial areas.

Catawba County officials will also present an introduction to the North Carolina Rehab Code with additional case studies. One of the goals of the Rehab Code is to make renovating existing buildings more competitive with new construction by streamlining the requirements for those looking to renovate existing buildings.

“One of Hickory City Council’s goals this year is to continue focusing on the redevelopment of older commercial and industrial areas in the city,” said City of Hickory Assistant City Manager Andrea Surratt. “This workshop will offer a great opportunity to learn about city programs and the North Carolina Rehab Code. All are welcome to attend the workshop, and it will be of interest especially to architects, engineers, real estate agents, developers, and general contractors who want to understand the construction and permitting process for reusing and redeveloping existing buildings.”

Since lunch will be provided, anyone interested in attending needs to RSVP by February 24. For more information or to RSVP contact the City of Hickory Planning and Development Department at (828) 323-7422.